

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a storage device that stores scene information including, at least, data for a at least one representative frame of extracted from a scene, data for an interval of the scene, and data for a hierarchical level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture ~~that is subject to a playback to be played back;~~

a display device that reads images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes from the storage device and concurrently ~~chronologically~~ displays the images chronologically based on an external designation of the hierarchical level; and

a selection device that receives a selection of one of the concurrently-
displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation; and

a playback device that plays back the ~~scene~~ scenes corresponding to the images of the representative frames displayed by the display device ~~based on an external playback instruction~~ selected by the selection device.

2. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device chronologically displays a specified number of the images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes concurrently.

3. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device refers to the scene information in the storage device when a hierarchical level is externally designated, and chronologically displays images of the representative frames of the scenes having the hierarchical level designated and above.

4. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

5. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the hierarchical level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

6. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device displays the scene played back by the playback device together with the images of the representative frames of the scenes, and displays data for discriminating representative frames corresponding to the scene being currently played back from the other representative frames.

7. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

8. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the display device changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed, synchronizing with the images being played back by the playback device.

9. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the display device changes a display condition and selects whether change of the display condition is synchronized with the images being played back by the playback device, based on an external instruction.

10. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the playback device plays back one of the scenes corresponding to one of the images of the representative frames of the scenes, which is externally designated among the images of the representative frames of the scenes displayed by the display device.

11. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
a storage device that stores scene information including, at least, data for a at least one representative frame of extracted from a scene, and data for a hierarchical level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture ~~that is subject to a~~ playback to be played back; and

a display device that reads images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes from the storage device and concurrently chronologically displays the images chronologically based on an external designation of the hierarchical level; and
a selection device that receives a selection of one of the concurrently-
displayed representative frames on the basis of an external designation.

12. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the display device refers to the scene information in the storage device when a hierarchical level is externally designated, and chronologically displays images of the representative frames of the scenes having the hierarchical level designated and above.

13. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

14. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the display device displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the hierarchical level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

15. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the display device changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

16. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:
storing scene information including, at least, data for at least one a
representative frame of extracted from a scene, data for an interval of the scene and data for
a hierarchical level of ~~of~~ each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture ~~that is~~
~~subject to a playback to be played back;~~
receiving an external designation of a hierarchical level;
concurrently ~~chronologically~~ displaying images of the representative frames
of the scenes stored in the storing step, the concurrently-displayed images being displayed
chronologically, based on an external designation of the hierarchical level; ~~and~~
receiving a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the
representative frames on the basis of an external designation; and
playing back the scene ~~scenes~~ corresponding to the images of the
representative frames displayed by the display device ~~based on the external playback~~
~~instruction selected in the selecting step.~~

17. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 16,
wherein the display step chronologically displays a specified number of the images of the
representative frames of the plurality of scenes concurrently.

18. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein
the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

19. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the display step displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the hierarchical level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

20. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the display step displays the scene played back in the playback step together with the images of the representative frames of the scenes, and displays data for discriminating representative frames corresponding to the scene being currently played back from the other representative frames.

21. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the display step changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

22. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 20, wherein the display step changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed, synchronizing with the images being played back in the playback step.

23. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 20, wherein the display step changes a display condition and selects whether changes of the display

condition is synchronized with the images being played back in the playback step, based on an external instruction.

24. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the playback step plays back one of the scenes corresponding to one of the images of the representative frames of the scenes, which is externally designated among the images of the representative frames of the scenes displayed in the display step.

25. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:
storing scene information including, at least, data for at least one a
representative frame of extracted from a scene and data for a hierarchical level of the scene
of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture ~~that is subject to a playback to~~
be played back; and

concurrently chronologically displaying images of the representative frames
of the plurality of scenes stored in the storing step, the concurrently-displayed images being
displayed chronologically, based on an external designation of the hierarchical level; and
receiving a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the
representative frames on the basis of an external designation.

26. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the display step refers to the scene information in the storage device when a hierarchical

level is externally designated, and chronologically displays images of the representative frames of the scenes having the hierarchical level designated and above.

27. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

28. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the display step displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the hierarchical level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

29. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the display step changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium that stores image processing program codes for playing back a moving picture, the computer readable storage medium storing:

a code for storing scene information including, at least, data for at least one a representative frame of extracted from a scene, data for an interval of the scene and data for a hierarchical level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture that is subject to a playback to be played back;

a code for concurrently ~~chronologically~~ displaying images of the representative frames of plurality of the scenes stored in the storing step, the concurrently-displayed images being displayed chronologically, based on an external designation of the hierarchical level; and-

a code for receipt of a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation; and

a code for playing back the ~~scene~~ scenes corresponding to the images of the representative frames ~~displayed in the display step based on an external playback instruction selected in the selecting step.~~

31. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium that stores image processing program codes for playing back a moving picture, the computer readable storage medium storing:

a code for storing scene information including, at least, data for at least one ~~a~~ representative frame ~~of extracted from~~ a scene and data for a hierarchical level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture ~~that is subject to a playback to be played back;~~

a code for concurrently ~~chronologically~~ displaying images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes stored in the storing step, the concurrently-displayed images being displayed chronologically, based on an external designation of the hierarchical level; and

a code for receipt of a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images
of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation.